ISSN 0027-965X

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE NEWS

Published monthly for health science libraries by the National Library of Medicine

Vol. XXXI, No. 2 Bethesda, Maryland February 1976

NLM Colloquium Observes the Bicentennial of U.S. Medicine

Distinguished physicians, scientists, and educators will meet at the National Institutes of Health on May 6 and 7 for a colloquium celebrating the bicentennial of U.S. medicine. The Colloquium, hosted by NLM in cooperation with the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, will review developments over the past two centuries, with some prognosis for the future. Topics will include medical education, public health and preventive medicine, medical care, select specialty areas, biomedical communications, the Federal role in medical education and research, and U.S. medicine as seen from abroad. Attendance is by special invitation due to limited space.

A list of invited papers and special discussants appears on page 3.

Listener/Viewers Join Readers in NLM "Reading Room"

The Reading Room at NLM might now more accurately be called the Reading/Listening/Viewing Room with the opening of a new Learning Resource Area featuring audiovisual teaching materials.

Seven learning carrels in the Library's Reading Room now contain more than 3,000 instructional units in ¾ inch U-matic videocassette, 35 mm slide/audiotape, and 16 mm film formats—each of which makes use of both sight and sound.

"Whenever possible, audiovisual materials have been placed in individual carrels organized according to human body system," noted Dr. Charles F. Bridgman, NLM Associate Director for Educational Resources Development. "The materials, catalog cards, and the various carrels have all been color-coded for easy identification and reshelving for users. We are emphasizing audiovisual formats which are standardized, relatively simple to use, and permit multi-sensory learning."

The Library's new learning resource carrels allow patrons to view and listen to a wide variety of medical audiovisual materials, including 35 mm slide/audiotapes, videocassettes, and 16 mm films.

Other carrels in the new Learning Resource Area contain microform playback devices and a terminal through which users can access any of the Library's several computerized data bases—MEDLINE, CANCERLINE®, TOXLINE®, CHEMLINE, SERLINE®, and other specialized files. One of the latest of these files is AVLINE (*News*, April 1975 and January 1976), containing information on nonprint health science instructional materials which have been either recommended or highly recommended by review groups. As the review process continues, AVLINE will gradually expand to include citations on several thousand audiovisuals which are available by loan, rental, or purchase. Highly recommended AVLINE items are being added to the new carrels and made available to Library patrons.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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The Billings Microscope Collection

Lieutenant Colonel George A. Otis, Curator of the Army Medical Museum, acquired several historic microscopes in 1874. However, it was John Shaw Billings, Curator of the Museum from 1383 to 1893 (and Director of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office from 1870 to 1895) who provided the impetus for expansion of the collection. He enlisted the aid of John Mayall, Jr. of London, a member of the Royal Microscopical Society and well-known collector of microscopes, to procure representative instruments for the collection. By 1888 Mayall had personally selected 141 instruments for the collection. Meanwhile, Billings searched for other instruments and stimulated other collectors to contribute to the growing collection.

Thirty-two of the 700 microscopes which comprise the Billings Collection are on display at the National Library of Medicine. Representative instruments illustrate the evolution of microscopy from the 17th to 20th centuries, beginning with a replica of Van Leeuwenhoek's 1673 simple single lens instrument and progressing through a variety of compound microscopes.

The National Library of Medicine is pleased that the Medical Museum of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, our former "sister institution," has prepared this exhibit to accompany the Library's bicentennial presentation of "200 Years of American Medicine."

The exhibit may be seen at the Library Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Compound monocular microscope: Edmund Culpeper, London, about 1730.

Compound monocular microscope: Dolland, London, about 1825.

(Colloquim, from p. 1)

Invited papers

Influences on the development of American medicine, John Z. Bowers, M.D., President, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation.

The Federal Government impact on biomedical research, G. Burroughs Mider, M.D., Senior Consultant, National Library of Medicine.

Public health and preventive medicine, John C. Snyder, M.D., Professor, Harvard School of Public Health.

Medical care, Russell A. Nelson, M.D., President Emeritus, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Undergraduate medical education, John A. D. Cooper, M.D., President, Association of American Medical Colleges.

Graduate medical education, William Holden, M.D., Chairman, Department of Surgery, Case Western Reserve University.

Infectious diseases (microbiology), Paul B. Beeson, M.D., Distinguished Physician, Veterans Administration Hospital.

Immunology, Lewis Thomas, M.D., President, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Pathology, Chandler A. Stetson, M.D., Dean, College of Medicine, University of Florida.

Surgical care, Francis D. Moore, M.D., Moseley Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School.

Metabolism and endocrinology, George W. Thorn, M.D., Emeritus Professor, Harvard University.

The heart and lungs, Julius Comroe, M.D., Director, Cardiovascular Research Institute, San Francisco Medical Center, University of California.

Human genetics, James V. Neel, M.D., Professor of Human Genetics, School of Medicine, University of Michigan.

Neoplasia, Michael B. Shimkin, M.D., Professor of Community Medicine and Oncology, University of California, San Diego.

The origins of medicinals, W.N. Hubbard, Jr., M.D., President, The Upjohn Company.

The neurosciences, Robert G. Frank, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Medical History, School of Medicine, Louise B. Marshall, Ph.D., Senior Editor, Brain Research Institute, H.W. Magoun, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles.

Biomedical communications, Mary E. Corning, Assistant Director for International Programs and Martin M. Cummings, M.D., Director, National Library of Medicine.

The view from Sweden, Sune Bergstrom, M.D., Professor, Karolinska Institutet.

The view from the United Kingdom, Sir George W. Pickering, D.M., Emeritus Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford.

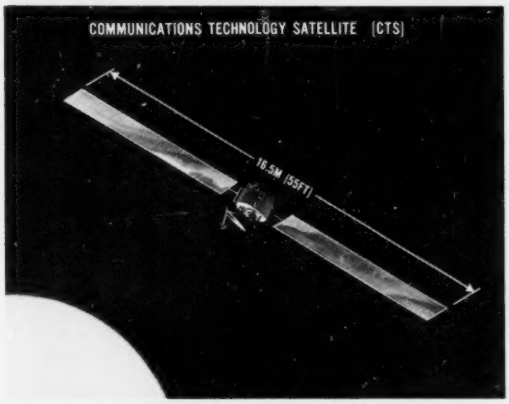
Historical synthesis, John B. Blake, Ph.D., Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine.

Special discussants

Ivan Bennett, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine, New York University.

Harry F. Dowling, M.D., Professor of Medicine Emeritus, University of Illinois.

John Robert Evans, M.D., President, University of Toronto. (Cont. p. 4)



On January 17th the Canadian and U.S. governments launched the new Communications Technology Satellite (CTS) from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida (see *News*, June 1975). The CTS will be available to both countries for experimental application to a variety of communication problems, including health. The Library's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications is providing program coordination and technical support for five major health projects sponsored by NIH and the Health Resources Administration. Program operations are scheduled to begin late in 1976.

(Special discussants, from p.3)

Donald S. Fredrickson, M.D., Director, National Institutes of Health.

Louis Lasagna, M.D., Department of Pharmacology, University of Rochester.

Walsh McDermott, M.D., Special Advisor to the President, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Victor A. McKusick, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Peter D. Olch, M.D., Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine.

Francis Schmitt, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Eugene Stead, Jr., M.D., Professor of Medicine, Duke University.

Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., Professor of Public Health, Yale University.

Owen Wangensteen, M.D., Regents' Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Minnesota.

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